(d) These bridges and culverts are provided for implementation during 10th Five Year Plan and will be taken up as per the availability of funds.

Coastal Highways in Gujarat

304. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though Gujarat has 25 per cent of the country's coast line with many ports but the coastal highway along this coast has not been upgraded to National Highway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government plan to correct this anomaly and if so, the likely period in which its upgradation is planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF.THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The declaration of any road as National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along the coast but on several other considerations including traffic needs, *inter-se* priority on all India basis and availability of resources. Notwithstanding the above, a length of approximately 362 kms. running along the coast line in Gujarat has already been converted into National Highway.

Roads in Orissa

305. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report captioned 'Cyclone-ravaged roads bumpy in Orissa' which appeared in The New India Express dated the 16th December, 2002;

(b) what is the position of different stretches ravaged in the devasting cyclone of 1999 and floods of 2001, awaiting repairs; and

(c) whether Centre is over-seeing the repair works and helping the State for expeditious completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF"THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.The report is in respect of damages caused to state roads. This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Development and maintenance of State roads other than National Highways is the responsibility of the State Government. Central Government does not oversee the repair works on state roads. The stretches of National Highways damaged in the cyclone of 1999 and flood of 2001 have already been made traffic worthy.

Four Lanning of National Highways

306. SHRI B.J.-PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned 'India finally set to move into the fast lane' which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 23rd December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of National Highways which have been four-lanned and other which are yet to be four-lanned by 2007, with outlay involved;

(c) the details of those passing through Orissa; and

(d) the details of the employment generated till the end 2002, and that which would be generated on completion by 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

, (b) The news item is on National Highway Development Project (NHDP), which is under implementation by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and has two components. The present status of NHDP is as under:—

(I) Golden Quadrilateral Project (GQ)

(i) Total Length : 5846 km